

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising:  
a mixture consisting essentially of (1) a dried hydrophobic sol-gel functionalized with at least one arsenic-removing constituent comprising a manganese and iron mixture and (2) a solid support structure ~~additionally functionalized with at least one arsenic-removing constituent~~.
2. (Original) The composition recited in claim 1, wherein said mixture is molded, granular, or powdered.
3. (Original) The composition recited in claim 1, wherein said dried hydrophobic sol-gel is an aerogel or xerogel.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Original) The composition recited in claim 1, wherein the solid support structure is granulated activated carbon (GAC).
6. (Original) The composition recited in claim 5, wherein the GAC is acid washed.
7. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising:  
a predetermined amount of a hydrophobic aerogel functionalized with at least one arsenic-removing constituent comprising a manganese and iron mixture; and

a predetermined amount of granulated activated carbon  
~~functionalized with at least one arsenic removing constituent~~, wherein said  
composition is capable of removing arsenic contaminants from aqueous media.

8. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

providing a dried hydrophobic sol-gel on a solid support structure,  
wherein said dried hydrophobic sol-gel and said solid support structure are  
functionalized with at least one arsenic-removing constituent comprising a  
manganese and iron mixture;

contacting said dried hydrophobic sol-gel on a solid support structure  
to an aqueous sample; and

analyzing said dried hydrophobic sol-gel on said solid support  
structure after contacting it with said aqueous sample in order to detect the  
presence and/or concentration of arsenic.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) The method recited in claim 8, wherein said dried  
hydrophobic sol-gel is a hydrophobic aerogel or hydrophobic xerogel.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) The method recited in claim 8, wherein the solid support  
structure is granulated activated carbon (GAC).

13. (Original) The method recited in claim 12, wherein the GAC is acid  
washed.

14. (New) The method recited in claim 1, wherein said dried hydrophobic sol-gel comprises greater than 0% but less than about 20% of said mixture.